

together between Three and Four Thousand of them, with a great quantity of Cattle, that they had gotten from the Counties adjacent (they were Carousing themselves, some taking of Snees, others Smoaking and Drinking;) upon the approach of our Forces, the Raparee Rebels gave a great Shout or Cry, like that of the *Turks*, seeming to come on with a great deal of Resolution; but on our Forces first Fire they immediately Fled, leaving their Prey of Cattle, and most of their Arms, among which were Fifty Silver Hilted Swords, supposed to belong to their Chief Officers: Our Forces pursued them with a great Slaughter, killing between Five and Six Hundred of them, and taking many Prisoners.

We likewise have an Account from *Connaught*-side, That the Body of the *Irish*, consisting of between Five and Six Thousand, that have been moving for some time, about the *Shannon*, Com-manded by *Sarsfield* and others, having crossed the *Shannon* and come on this side, they Marched with Five Cannon to a strong Town and Castle called *Bir*, which belonged to one Sir *Lawrence Parsons*, it's Scituated within Two Miles of the *Shannon*, Fifty Two from *Dublin*, and as many from *Cork*, and being come within Two Hundred Yards of the Place, they sent a Summons to the Governor to Surrender, who had in it a Garrison of about Eighty Soldiers, besides Towns-men in Arms; the Governor sent back a Resolute Answer, That he knew no King but King *William*, for whom he kept the Castle, and to whom he hoped to be able to give a good Account of his Trust, by a Resolute Defence; on which the Enemy raised a Battery with their Cannon, from whence

they Played pretty briskly on the Place; the Garrison at the same time (and while the Battery was raising) Played as briskly from the Castle on the Enemy, and killed a great many of their Men; while this was doing, Lieutenant General *Douglas*; and Sir *John Lanier*, who were going in Pursuit of *Sarsfield* and his Parties, hearing the Guns Play took the Alarm, and by their Scouts or Advanced Parties, had Advice brought them, that the Enemy had laid Siege to *Bir*, on which they immediately Marched thither with their whole Force, upon whose Approach the Enemy raised the Siege, and retired over the *Shannon* again, leaving their Cannon and Baggage and about 160 of their Company Dead on the Place, which had been Killed by the Cannon from the Garrison.

We have an Account from all hands That the *Irish* are fallen under miserable Necessities, and what is more to our Comfort, things are like to grow much worse with the *Rogues*. The Train'd Bands or Militia of the several Counties, Cities, and Towns in Their Majesties Possession, are Raising, and man Raising and Armed to be in a posture to assist in Defending the Country People this Winter from the Insolencies and Villanies of the Raparees. Trade begins to Flourish, and fall into its old Channel again: And the Effects at the *Custom House* advances very much. The greatest Want we fear this Winter is Coal for Firing.

Sir *Clowesly Shovel*, with his whole Fleet, came into the Bay of *Waterford* Two Days since, and we hear he is Sailing again towards the Coast of *Galway* in search of some *French* that we hear is Cruising thereabouts; but we hear not one Word of the Grand Fleet.

[1]

The Full and True

RELATION

Of a Dreadful

Storm or Tempest

Accompanied with Thunders, Lightnings, and Hail-stones, some of them being above Two pounds in weight: As likewise a terrible Earthquake, continuing for above half an hour, giving three furious onsets, the which hapned on the 16th of *August* 1680, in the City of *Millain*, and the Villages adjacent; so that in the space of Three hours and a half, it quite demolished Twenty stately Houses, and ruined about one hundred and fifty more, and greatly Endamaged Two Churches, by blowing off their Steeples, and unleading them.

As likewise

An Account of Barns and Reeks fited by Lightning, Trees blown up by the Roots, and Villages adjacent destroyed, with about Sixty persons killed, and a Hundred wounded, besides a number of Cattle that perished: the like not having been known to happen: The Damages sustained upon view of several worthy persons, being granted to be One Million and a half.

With several other Remarkable Accidents (strange and dreadful) as they were faithfully transmitted by a person of worth, who was upon view of the sad accident, and gave his report as to the losses sustained.

When angry Heaven designs to punish man for Disobedience, and to make him know he is but dust, sundry means are used; and wise Omnipotence fore-warns before he strikes, or gives his vengeance reins to overwhelm with ruine irrevocable the Sons of Men: for sure it is, Divine Justice is always tempered with Mercy, and many times some fall, to give the rest an op-

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portunity

portunity for to repent, and so avoid the danger imminent, which otherwise would fall heavy on their heads: And truly through all Ages it has been observed, that the Almighty has been loath to destroy the work that his right hand has formed; for as the holy Psalmist does declare, that lowd Thunder is his voice among the waters, so may it be understood, that Tempests and Earthquakes are his warning-pieces, and as Heralds, gives us notice of wrath designed to fall; of which more dreadful has not happened, than what I shall here relate, which happened in the City of *Millain*, and the Villages adjacent, on the 16th of *August*, 1680, the Circumstances of which are as followeth.

About Noon an unusual paleness over-cast the Sun, and all the Clouds seemed of a white Amber-colour, their motions being many times contrary to the Winds, that about Three of the clock in the Afternoon began to blow strong from the North-West, when on a suddain, it Thundered, and darted Lightning so swift, as made the Heavens seem all on fire, whilst a gathering blackness made it seem as night, that people could not discern each other, so as to be known the space of six yards; which put all to a great amazement, and caused them to imagine that Dooms-day was at hand: but long their wonder had not lasted, ere from the breaking Clouds a storm of Hail descended, the stones of which were of such Magnitude, as has not been seen in any Age, many of them weighing two pounds or more; which surprizing many in the fields, and other places shelterless, killed them in a moment, whilst in vain they strove to fly, and Cattle without number perished; all the Fruit-trees and others were broken in pieces for the space of forty miles, as if they had been battered with Cannon-Bullets, or the Branches torn with violent hands: nor fared the City and Villages much better, for in many places the Spires were beaten off Church-steeple, the Leads broken through, and all the Ornaments therein quite spoyled; whilst the Houses went to wrack, scarce either Tiles or Slates being left upon them, but loosened or broke off by the furious Storm, they were by the violence of the winds carried

carried like Leaves in the Air , far distant from their proper places ; stacks of Chimneys likewise being blown down, whose fall demolished several stately Buildings ; so that the wretched people in amazement knew not where to fly for safety, but as they strove to avoid one danger , fell foul of another as great if not greater than the former ; for leaving their ruined Houses, in the open streets the Hail was worse, and the Storm raged more , accompanied with hot flashes of Lightning, and volleys of Thunder, so prodigious loud as was never heard before ; so that multitudes being struck down, lay sprawling and crying for help in vain ; each one preferring his safety before that of his friends.

Whilst this was doing, several Barns and Reeks of Corn and Hay, near adjoyning to the City, took fire, supposed to be done by Lightning, whose Flames, notwithstanding all the Rain and Hail, burnt fierce, and being carried with the wind, whole sheets of that devouring Element were hurled in the Air, not without greatly endangering the Churches and Buildings on that side the City.

The Storm and great Confusion having continued for the space of three hours, Rending and Tearing what e'r opposed it, immediately an unusual Portent more dangerous, began to assault the tottering Ruines : for whether caused by the violence of the Tempest, or Whirlwinds inclosed in Natures Caverns, is not certain ; but certain it is, the Earth began to Tremble more and more, till at last it fell into so terrible a shaking fit, as made the Buildings skip like Rams, and the People stagger as if drunk, that nothing but Confusions and Amazements were spread among them , whilst the Crying Children followed their woful Parents, for to shelter them from Heavens wrath, which the angry Skies sent down. The Earthquake gave Three several onsets , which each time increased so, that the last seemed to have unhinged all Nature, and to have overturned her deep Foundations , the like never having been in any of these parts before. It continued for half an hour or somewhat more , doing infinite damage to those Buildings the Storm had loosened ; so that above